

Remarks

In response to the Official Office Action dated February 7, 2005, claims 1-63 have been canceled, claims 64, 65, and 68 have been amended, and new claims 71-78 have been added. It is believed that these claims define over the prior art made of record by the Examiner and reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a method of reducing signaling overhead in a mobile communication system when a mobile terminal is engaged in a packet data call in a packet-switched network and does not want to receive incoming calls from a multi-service network. The mobile terminal includes a Do Not Disturb function that can be selectively activated. The Do No Disturb function can be actuated manually, or the mobile terminal can be programmed to activate the Do Not Disturb function automatically when a packet data call is established. In response to the Do Not Disturb instruction from the mobile terminal, the circuit-switched network refrains from completing calls for selected incoming communications. In one embodiment of the invention, the circuit-switched network refrains from completing both voice and data calls. Alternatively, the circuit-switched network could refrain from completing voice calls while delivering data calls, such as SMS messages.

The Examiner rejected the application of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Haartsen and Ahmad. However, neither of these references disclose a Do Not Disturb function which is the subject matter of the amended claims. Haartsen discloses a mobile terminal that can operate in a public wireless communication network (hereafter "public network") or a private wireless communication network (hereafter "private network"). Both the public network and the private network are conventional circuit-switched voice communication networks. In Haartsen, the mobile terminal can de-register with the public network when it is within the range of the private network so that the voice calls are preferentially directed through the private network. When the mobile terminal in Haartsen de-registers from the public network, incoming calls are redirected through the private network to the mobile terminal using Call Forwarding. In other

words, the de-registration request includes an instruction to forward calls to the mobile terminal through the private network. As a result, incoming voice calls are completed, which is in contrast to the present invention. In the present invention, the network refrains from completing incoming voice calls responsive to a Do Not Disturb function.

The patent to Ahmad discloses the method of paging a mobile station in a hybrid network including both a circuit-switched network and a packet-switched network. In Ahmad, the network sends a signal to the access network controller in the packet-switched network to determine whether the mobile station is accessible via the packet-switched network before establishing the call. Depending on the response from the access network controller, the base station either pages the mobile station over conventional circuit-switched channels to establish the call, or forwards the page to the packet-switched network. It should be noted that Ahmad does not teach or suggest a Do Not Disturb function. Again, contrary to the present invention, the base station controller attempts to complete the call. Further, the base station controller does not act responsive to instructions from the mobile station.

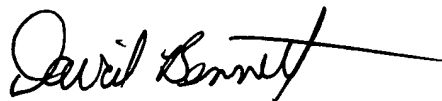
The claims have been amended to state that the network refrains from completing calls for selected incoming calls responsive to the Do Not Disturb instruction from the mobile terminal. As noted above, none of the prior art references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest a Do Not Disturb function that can be selectively activated by the mobile terminal. On the contrary, the prior art references relied on by the Examiner teach various methods of completing calls through alternative networks. The idea of a Do Not Disturb function is not present in either of the prior art references.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully urged that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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